



## **FACT SHEET**

### **Luke Air Force Base**

- The 4,200-acre Luke Air Force Base opened in 1941, approximately 20 miles west of Phoenix. In 1995, the city of Glendale annexed Luke AFB as part of its efforts to manage compatible growth around the base.
- The base is named after World War I flying ace Lieutenant Frank Luke Jr., the first aviator to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Luke, who was born and raised in Phoenix, was killed in combat at the age of 21 on Sept. 29, 1918.
- Luke AFB is home to the Air Force's 56<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, the largest fighter wing in the world with 165 aircraft and 25 squadrons.
- As the only active-duty F-16 training wing in the Air Force, Luke AFB trains more than 50 percent of the Air Force's fighter pilots and 90 percent of its F-16 pilots.
- The base population includes approximately 8,000 active-duty military personnel and Department of Defense civilian employees and 6,700 family members. With about 70,000 retired military members living in the metropolitan area (which increases to 119,000 military retirees during "snow-bird" season), Luke serves a total population approximately 85,000 people. Luke's total population served increases to more than 133,000 during the winter months.
- The majority of Luke's personnel live off-base in surrounding West Valley cities.
- Luke airmen receive some of the most comprehensive and realistic training available in the Air Force, including more than 265 hours of classroom training, 55 hours of flight simulator and 80 hours of flight time.

- FY 2009 Facts & Figures
  - Produced 319 pilots & 636 crew chiefs
  - Flew 27,490 training missions (“sorties”) -- avg. 133 per day
  - Totaled more than 35,819 flying hours – avg. 147 hours per day
  - Base personnel volunteered more than 100,000 hours in community
  
- In addition to flying and maintaining the F-16, Luke military personnel also deploy to support on-going operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and other combat assignments throughout the world. In fiscal year 2009, Luke deployed 616 airmen. F-16 combat pilots and maintainers currently in Afghanistan and Iraq were all trained at Luke AFB.
  
- Since 1988, Luke AFB has trained 16,270 fighter pilots to fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon and graduated 9,071 crew chiefs.
  
- Since 1941, Luke AFB has graduated more than 56,060 fighter pilots.
  
- The F-16 training mission at Luke AFB is dependent not only on the base itself, but on its airspace that includes gunnery ranges, low-level military training routes, outlying auxiliary airfields and military operating areas.
  
- An integral part of Luke’s F-16 fighter pilot training mission is the 1.7-million-acre Barry M. Goldwater Range, which allows for simultaneous training activities on nine air-to-ground and two air-to-air ranges. Luke’s Range Management Office oversees the operations on the eastern portion of the range.